



Town of Lexington
Land Use, Health and Development Department
Office of Public Health
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
(781)-698-4533
Fax (781)-861-2780

Gerard F. Cody, R.E.H.S./R.S.
Health Director x 84503

Kathy P. Fox, R.E.H.S. /R.S., C.H.O., CP-FS
Environmental Health Agent x 84507

David Neylon, B, S.N., R.N.
Public Health Nurse x 84509

Board of Health

Wendy Heiger-Bernays, PhD, Chair
Sharon Mackenzie, R.N., CCM
Burt M. Perlmutter, M.D.
David S. Geller, M.D.
John J. Flynn, J.D.

Medical Waste Collection Day in Lexington

An opportunity to Dispose of Prescription and over the counter Medications Cluttering Your Kitchen Cabinets and Bathroom Medicine Chests. Together, we can make difference.

On Wednesday, June 7, 2017, Lexington residents can bring in their unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs to the rear of 1625 Massachusetts Avenue parking lot for safe, secure, packaging, transportation and disposal of unwanted medications and used syringes out of your Lexington home. In past events, we've collected more than 200 pounds of drugs, pills, syrups and syringes that would have otherwise lingered in bathroom medicine chests and kitchen cabinets.

Lingering and unneeded Medicines at home may pose grave and unnecessary dangers to families and the people of all ages visiting their homes. At a recent public meeting about addiction, a movie called ***If Only***, (<http://www.ifonlymovie.org>) was shown to a diverse audience of public officials and concerned parents in Lexington. The movie, ***If Only***, follows the story of two teenage boys who experiment with and become addicted to drugs that were mostly obtained from their home medicine cabinet. Our Lexington Medical Waste collection is the preferred method for prescription medicine disposal. Frequent medicine collection programs run by the Town of Lexington Office of Public Health are a big step toward preventing unnecessary deaths and addiction due to accidental medication exposure.

Another important effect of the Lexington Board of Health Medical Waste Collection program is that it helps to divert medicines and drugs from entering the environment. We share the public's concerns regarding the potential environmental impact of disposing unused medicines and drugs in household trash, or by flushing down the toilet. We are working with other departments in town such as the Department of Public Works, Human Services, Police Department and Conservation Department, to reduce the possibility of human health impacts and ecological risks from medicines in our water. All these Town Departments have a shared overall goal of eliminating human addition threats and reducing unnecessary medicine exposure to local water sheds and the environment.

The importance is underscored when you think about the epidemic this country is facing with opioid medications. Many people who misuse medications, such as opioids, get their first dose by using medications prescribed to other people. Cleaning out your home kitchen cabinet and medicine cabinet is one more tool that we can use to help reduce the risk of addiction in humans.

The Lexington Board of Health is deeply concerned about the abuse, misuse, dependence, and overdose of opioids in Massachusetts and the United States. In response to this threat of addiction, the Lexington Board of Health encourages you to take concrete steps toward reducing the impact of opioid abuse on American families and communities by removing any unneeded medication from your home.

So if your prescription medications have expired or you are no longer taking them, a medical waste collection event is a way to make sure they are disposed of properly. The Lexington Board of Health recommends that you get rid of all unused drugs in the home. It's simple and easy. Gather them up and take them to our collection event on Wednesday June 7, 2017. The service is available from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. It's free and your identity remains anonymous since the drugs are packaged for final disposal at the event.

Safe disposal of medicine is a year-round activity. Contact the Lexington Office of Public Health to learn more about your disposal options if you cannot attend this event. Together, we can make difference.

For additional information please contact the Public Health Director, Gerard Cody at 781-698-4503 gcody@lexingtonma.gov or visit <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/public-health/pages/medical-waste-collection>. These events are brought to you by the Lexington Board of Health, Office of Public Health, Lexington Police, Lexington Human Services and the Lexington Department of Public Works.